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October 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Ministers

SUBJECT: Release of 2015 - 2016 Financial Statements (Unaudited)

As you know, the President of the Treasury Board announced last week that there is a delay in the release of the 2015-2016 Public Accounts due to some on-going discussions with the Auditor General related to an accounting issue that impacts the financial statements of the province.

Today, the government will be releasing the 2015-2016 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited). While these do not constitute the full public accounts, they do set out the government's financial position for the fiscal year. The full public accounts will be tabled once the Auditor General issues her report on the province's financial statements.

As we have discussed at Deputy Minister's Council, the issue under discussion with the Auditor General relates to the accounting treatment of jointly-sponsored pension plans. In order to provide the clarity necessary to prepare those statements for this fiscal year, and in order to ensure those statements were prepared in a timely manner, the Lieutenant Governor in Council passed a regulation to legislate the accounting treatment of the asset for the 2015-16 financial statements. This legislative accounting allows staff to be able to sign-off on the financial statements for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The one-year treatment provides time for officials to continue to conduct extensive research on the future treatment of these pension assets.

I want to thank staff in the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance for the great amount of effort that has gone into the preparation of the financial statements of the province.

It is a fact of life that as public servants, our work is sometimes part of the public debate. I believe our work can and should be subject to the transparency expected by the public, and I have every confidence that staff will continue to conduct themselves in the professional, ethical and non-partisan manner that has always been the hallmark of the Ontario Public Service.

Sincerely,

Steve Orsini

c. Andrew Bevan